

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00910 040951Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 IO-13 HA-05 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 CA-01

/108 W

-----092627 050425Z /11

R 040900Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7291

INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0910

EO 11662: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PDEV, P PGOV, EIND, BY

SUBJECT: BURUNDI MOVING TO SQUEEZE OUT MORE FOREIGNERS

1. SUBSEQUENT TO THE RECENT EXPULSION OF PSTRO LEONARD ROBINSON OF THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, EMBASSY HAS LEARNED OF FURTHER GOB ACTIONS AGAINST THE EXPATRIATE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. GOB HAS SENT LETTERS TO THE EUROPEAN HEADQUARTERS OF THREE EUROPE/BURUNDI ENTERPRISES REQUESTING THAT THEIR GENERAL MANAGERS BE REPLACED BY YOUNGER, MORE DYNAMIC EXPATRIATES AND STATING THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND TO RENEW EXPIRING WORK PERMITS FOR THESE INDIVIDUALS. IT HAS BEEN FURTHER LEARNED THAT THE EUROPEAN PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS INTERVENED ON BEHALF OF THE THREE STATING THAT IT WAS ERRONEOUS TO STATE THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE NOT DYNAMIC AS HE FELT THAT INDEED THEY WERE, AND THAT GIVEN RECENT EVENTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA, I.E. THE KOLWEZI EXPERIENCE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO RECRUIT NEW TOP-NOTCH EUROPEAN MANAGERS AT THIS TIME. HE MENTIONED THE FACT THAT MANY EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL ARE RELUCTANT TO LEAVE WELL-PAYING EUROPEAN POSTS TO COME TO AFRICA SINCE AFTER COMPLETION OF THEIR AFRICAN ASSIGNMENTS IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO OBTAIN COMPARABLE EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT

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AGAIN.

2. COMMENT: NEEDLESS TO SAY, LOCAL EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY IS ALL AFLUTTER OVER THESE GOB MACHINATIONS. EMBASSY BELIEVES THESE GOB ACTIONS ARE A MANIFESTATION OF THE PERIODICAL XENOPHOBIA WHICH BURUNDI SEEMS TO SUFFER EVERY YEAR OR TWO.

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Message Attributes

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